

Message Text

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: EG, IS, US
SUBJECT: MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS FOR CAMP DAVID MEETING

REF: STATE 211408

1. CONTENTS OF REFTEL COMMUNICATED TO PRIME MINISTER'S PRESS SPOKESMAN DAN PATTIR AND TO NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU CHIEF GAD RANON (SUBSTITUTING FOR EVRON). PATTIR ESTIMATES TOTAL NUMBER OF ISRAELI, AMERICAN AND THIRD-COUNTRY JOURNALISTS TRAVELING FROM ISRAEL TO COVER CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL BE ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE, MOST OF WHOM WILL FLY ON PRIME MINISTER'S PLANE TO NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 3. NAMES ETC. BEING PROVIDED USG THROUGH ISRAEL EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. WE WILL ALSO CABLE ALL REQUESTED INFORMATION ON JOURNALISTS SOONEST.

2. WE EXPLAINED THAT JOURNALISTS WISHING TO COVER CAMP DAVID ARRIVALS WOULD HAVE TO TRAVEL THERE IN ADVANCE OF THE THREE LEADERS. PATTIR UNDERSTANDS THAT JOURNALISTS TRAVELING WITH PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHETHER TO STICK WITH PRIME MINISTER IN NEW YORK OR GO ON TO WASHINGTON TO COVER CAMP DAVID ARRIVALS.

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3. PATTIR STRESSED THAT ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER SHOULD BE TREATED AS PART OF ISRAEL OFFICIAL PARTY (THOUGH NOT AS ONE OF THE FIRST 8 MEMBERS). HE SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED PART OF ANY PRESS POOL BUT IN ADDITION TO IT. PUT ANOTHER WAY, GOI WANTS OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER TREATED ON EQUAL BASIS WITH U.S. AND EGYPTIA

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER. MORE GENERALLY, GOI WISHES TO MAKE SURE THAT ISRAELI MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES FOR PRESS, TV, STILL PHOTOGRAPHY AND RADIO ARE GIVEN SAME OPPORTUNITIE TO COVER CONFERENCE THAT U.S. MEDIA IS GIVEN. WHEREVER COVERAGE IS LIMITED, MEDIA REPS FROM U.S., EGYPT AND ISRAEL SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY OVER MEDIA FROM OTHER COUNTRIES.

4. PATTIR EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT EXCLUSION OF ISRAEL AND EGYPTIAN SPOKESMEN FROM CAMP DAVID DELEGATION MIGHT COMPLICATE COORDINATION OF DAILY PRESS BRIEFINGS. HE STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF BOTH SPOKESMEN RECEIVING SAME INFORMATION FROM JODY POWELL AND HAVING POWELL'S DAILY BRIEFING GUIDELINES WELL WORKED OUT WITH EACH DELEGATION BEFORE HE BRIEFS THE PRESS IN THURMONT AND WASHINGTON.

5. PATTIR SUGGESTED ADVISABILITY SETTING UP "STANDING POOLS" TO BE PREPARED FOR MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES WHICH MAY ARISE DURING THE CONFERENCE.

6. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBLE MEDIA INTERVIEWS WITH ANY OF THE PRINCIPALS IN THE DAYS JUST BEFORE THE CONFERENCE BEGINS (PARA 5 REFTTEL) PATTIR ASSURED US THAT NO SUCH INTERVIEWS ARE CONTEMPLATED BY PRIME MINISTER, EITHER IN ISRAEL OR NEW YORK. HE ADDED THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO MAKE SOME PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT CAMP DAVID PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE BUT WOULD KEEP CONFIDENTIAL

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THE REMARKS NON-CONTRAVERSIAL. LEWIS

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